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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2016

Province invests

Allied Marine expansion.
Page 2.

Bumpy road ahead

Councillors on board with
Inter-municipal transit.
Page 2.

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Catching the acting bug



MICHELLE ALLEN/NEWS/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Actors from the Canadian film *How She Move* meet with a handful of students before hosting a Q&A as part of the Reel Canada event at Lakeshore Catholic High School. Shown from left are Alisia Humphreys, 15; Kevin Duhaney; Daniel Keith Morrison; Logan Willick, 16; Hannah Traynor, 15; and Dwain Murphy. See more on A3.

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Province aids Allied Marine expansion

LAURA BARTON
Postmedia Network

The provincial government is investing nearly a half-million dollars into a 20-year-old Port Colborne company that provides technical services to both marine and land-based industries.

Last Tuesday St. Catharines MPP Jim Bradley announced on behalf of Economic Development and Growth Minister Brad Duguid that the province is contributing \$460,000 toward a new plant for Allied Marine and Industrial, estimated to cost \$4.6 million.

"You are competing with very tough competition from around the world, but our role as a government is to invest in these kinds of industries and invest in jobs in Ontario and boosting our economy in each part of the province," Bradley said to Allied staff gathered for the announcement.

The \$460,000 is coming from the Southwestern Ontario Development Fund, which has helped to both create and retain jobs.

As a result of the investment, Allied will create 16 new jobs while retaining another 45.

The company founded in 1987 provides a number of

services for marine and land-based industries in southern Ontario, including custom fabrication, manufacturing and field services.

A new state-of-the-art facility, which is expected to be fully completed July 2017, will include "innovative technologies" with a focus on tooling, machining, fabrication, assembly and storage buildings.

Niagara Centre MP Vance Badawey said the funding award factors right in to what federal Transport Minister Marc Garneau announced two weeks ago about creating jobs through the transportation sector.

"I can say with a great deal of confidence ... recognizing the strengths and the assets that we have here, especially as they relate to transportation, we have it," Badawey said. "We have it right here and you are a part of it. It is you that is our strength."

Many people present at last Tuesday's announcement recognized the success of the company comes from its workers at all levels.

"What we're here doing today is celebrating what the men and women both on the floor and in the front offices have achieved over the last



Al Barrick, vice-president of Allied Marine and Industrial accepts a certificate from Port Colborne Mayor John Maloney, who congratulated the company last Tuesday on its longevity and new location.

number of years," Allied director Paul Bonwick said.

Port Colborne Mayor John Maloney congratulated Allied for adapting to the needs of the

economy.

"With your skilled workforce, you are now poised to become a competitor in a regional, national and inter-

national market, because that's what you have to do to survive in today's economy," he said.

Allied's former location was

on West Street in Port Colborne, but has since moved to Lake Road.

lbarnton@postmedia.com

Road to inter-municipal transit not so smooth

MARYANNE FIRTH
Postmedia Network

Not all regional councillors appear on board with the route inter-municipal transit is taking in Niagara.

Niagara Region's public works committee was updated last Tuesday on the process underway to develop a more efficient and effective transit system connecting Niagara's municipalities.

But after listening to a presentation from Dennis Kar of Dillon Consulting, the firm hired to assist with the project, Fort Erie Mayor Wayne Redekop had concerns about how the new model would roll out.

While the new transit plan is set to include expanded routes and the frequency of the service, Redekop questioned how it will serve residents outside of the "core" area of St. Catharines, Niagara

Falls and Welland.

He felt it would not increase connectivity to the communities outside of the three major centres.

"The difficulty that I have with this, is in Fort Erie we're being asked to increase our commitment financially to public transit threefold over the next four years, which in all likelihood we will do," he said. But he feels the proposed plan does not take into

account that local investment, providing limited increase in connectivity to the lake-side community.

"It's frustrating for me because I see great opportunity for this system to actually connect Niagara. I see it as the sole, single



REDEKOP



HEIT

Welland and Niagara Falls transit systems into a single entity to be governed by a new corporation.

project that we're working on here to bring Niagara together."

The proposed model would amalgamate St. Catharines,

Communities outside of the three large urban centres would be responsible for their own local transit in order to link to the inter-municipal connections.

Redekop said it takes students in his community three hours to get to Brock University using public transit — a ride time he fears will not be significantly shortened under the new model.

See TRANSIT on A19

THE NIAGARA ARTISTS CENTRE PRESENTS
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Actors surprise students

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

Lakeshore Catholic High School students were in for a big surprise when three actors from the Canadian film *How She Move* walked into the school's theatre.

As part of Reel Canada, students watched the 2007 movie shown at Toronto International Film Festival before being surprised last Tuesday by actors Daniel Keith Morrison, Dwain Murphy and Kevin Duhaney. The actors said they chose to participate in because they said they wished there had been something similar when they were in school.

Reel Canada is a non-profit organization that promotes Canadian films. Lakeshore Catholic hosted its event in observation of National Canadian Film Day.

Lakeshore Catholic has welcomed Reel Canada to the school for the past four years. Vice-principal Andrew Boon said students are shown features they could have in Canadian arts and theatre.

"When you are exposing students to Canadian films you are exposing them to career opportunities and enrichment in things that perhaps we don't talk about enough," Boon said.

"I think we are a very modest country, we're a very humble country and I think this is an opportunity for us to fly our flag and say, 'Hey, look at what we can do, look at what we can produce.'"

Boon said the Reel Canada



MICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Canadian actors from *How She Move* answer questions at Lakeshore Catholic High School during a Q&A session as part of a Reel Canada event at the school. Shown from left are Dwain Murphy, Kevin Duhaney and Daniel Keith Morrison.

event ties into what is taught at the Port Colborne school. One of the art classes is in technology class in which students learn about set design, sound and stage production.

Boon said having the actors visit and host a Q&A session after the film encouraged students to become more passionate about their studies.

Grade 10 student Alisia

Humphreys said she was looking forward to meeting the actors. Humphreys along with Hannah Traylor, Grade 10, and Logan Willick, Grade 11, got to meet the actors before the Q&A. The three students are part of a school club called the Dance Ambassadors which performs at school events. The three young women had the unique chance to meet the actors because of their

involvement with dance. *How She Move* tells the story of dancers battling in a competition to win \$50,000.

"I was overwhelmed to see (the actors). It's cool to see them on the screen and then in person," Humphreys said.

The actors were just as thrilled to be at the high school promoting Canadian arts and film.

Murphy, known for his

role in the 2007 movie *Poor Boy's Game* with Rosal Sutherland and Danny Glover, said all three actors feel it's important to inspire students and encourage them to pursue their dreams.

"No matter where you are, who you are, where you're from, your background or whatever, it's still possible to make a living as an artist in anything," Murphy said.

The Canadian actors

agreed they chose to be part of Reel Canada because even if they can impact two or three students, that's great. The advice they'd give anyone wanting to act is to grow a thick skin because actors and artists have to deal with rejection.

Duhaney, the Blue Dino Thunder Ranger on *Power Ranger Dino Thunder*, said aspiring actors need to go after their dreams, work hard and never give up.

"Invest in yourself because nobody else will," Duhaney said.

With a laugh, Morrison, known for his role on *Degrassi: The Next Generation*, said if someone wants to pursue a future in the arts, just do it. An important aspect some people forget is there are many avenues to a specific art.

"Some kids think in the dance industry, they all want to be like on world tour with somebody you, I made more money doing the opposite of that ... because I had to find other avenues for me. It's all what works for you at the end of the day, but I decided to be a teacher and run events," Morrison said about his career as a professional dancer.

The actors wanted students to know there are many options for them. Instead of being a film actor, there is community theatre, stage acting, production and an endless number of careers.

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Community paramedic service improves



BRIAN
BATY

A Paramedic pilot project is underway for residents of Port Colborne, Welland and Pelham. The program is aimed at reducing the bend of the curve of increasing 9-1-1 calls and provide better service for Niagara residents.

One Community Paramedic and one Care Coordinator led to a 61 per cent reduction in hospital admission days, 34 per cent reduction in emergency department visits and a 40 per cent reduction in calls for ambulances through Emergency Medical Services over a period of one year in the group of people served.

The "high users" of emergency room, EMS and hospital resources comprise less than 5 per cent of the population but use over 60 per cent of acute care resources.

The funding of the program was \$90,611.00 in 2015 with additional funds allotted for the first quarter of 2016. Cost avoidance to the hospital system during 2015 was approximately \$495,000.00 and to the Niagara EMS was approximately \$114,252.00.

To achieve this remarkable result, the paramedic team



Niagara Emergency Medical chief Kevin Smith.

identified 49 individuals with high EMS use, high emergency department visits and hospital admissions.

These individuals had accounted for an approximate cost of \$750,000 to the hospital and EMS system. Working with the medical direction of the family physician, the community paramedic made regular home visits and would often try to address gaps such as sufficient housing, health literacy and nutrition that directly impacted the number of times they accessed the emergency system.

Over the course of one year, the community paramedic addressed 56 separate issues through coaching or referral which resulted in the avoidance of 120 ambulance responses. In addition those individuals avoided the personal costs of \$45 for each

ambulance call with revenues flowing back to the health system. The hospitals save, the EMS saves and the citizen saves by avoiding ambulance charges.

Following the delivery of the report on this program, a short video was shown with testimonials from the clients and family members who have participated in this pilot program. All expressed support for the program and

praised the community paramedic as they have all developed confidence in his performance and understanding of their personal circumstances.

The Public Health and Social Services Committee commended the medical officer of health and the chief of EMS for their leadership. This pilot project follows a similar community outreach in Wainfleet where the

smaller population impacts paramedic services. Regional Councillors recommended that the LHIN be requested to continue funding this initiative and explore full implementation in other parts of Niagara Region.

Brian Baty is a Niagara Regional Councillor for the Town of Pelham and a member of the Public Health and Social Services Committee. batty@niagararegion.ca

MIKE DIABATTISTA / POSTMEDIA NETWORK

I've been thinking trust God with our life and laugh

GORD ABRAHAM

Port Colborne Baptist Church

Well, now that the 18 month dust storm has somewhat settled, half the population south of the border are rejoicing "America will be great again" while the other half are in despair and fear.

Here at home, we are hoping our leaders can keep up the "sunny ways and sunny days" with economic and political storms rising.

So, it's time to be reminded to keep trusting God. It is also important to have a few good laughs so our blood pressure stays under control; that's

what the Doctor's say. Better yet, Solomon said, many millennia ago, "A merry heart is a good medicine."

My uncle Earl, who worked his entire career in a high pressure commercial atmosphere said, "If I did not have a sense of humour, I would have gone crazy in this business long ago."

My mom had a great sense of humour as well as the rest of her family. It was always a treat as a little child to be with all my Mom's siblings, hearing the laughter, joking, fun and silliness (Oh, by the way, none of them drank), they had lost their Dad in a work related

accident in Pueblo Colorado, lost a little brother four months after that and moved to Toronto during the Great Depression with all its deprivation and struggle.

In my Mom and Dad's later years they lived through nine years of Dad's Alzheimer's. Mom was care-giver and it

became progressively more difficult for her as he became more and more confused and paranoid. She tried her best, even through tears and exhaustion, trusting her Saviour, the Lord Jesus, laughing and keeping a sense of humour.

See RELIGION on A5

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Yes, the Lord has done amazing things for us

RELIGION from A4

Periodically, as Dad and Mom would go to the bank, he would point to my Mom and say, "she's stealing all my money." One day, after my wife and I had a yard sale of their possessions so they could move, Dad told me that "people were robbing him blind," not realizing I was the one selling their things.

On the last day of the last week of his life, Dad and I were together and he was telling me he did not have any money. To quote him, he said, "I don't have two nickels to rub together."

When I was ready to leave, he pressed two twenty dollar bills into my hand. I looked in his wallet and it was filled with twenty dollar bills. With a bit of amazed laughter, I said, "you just told me that people are stealing your money and you didn't have two nickels to rub together, and I see a couple hundred bucks in your wallet!" He came to for that brief moment, smiled at me and shrugged his shoulders.

On another day, before his death, Mom was flustered because she could not find her eye-glasses. They were

those very large round ones that looked like windows. Dad would hide things, so people wouldn't steal them, so she just assumed he hid them somewhere. Needing to go out with him to a meeting, she said in frustration, "lets just get going." When she got to the car to get in she looked across the car roof at Dad. There sitting on Dad's face were my Mom's huge glasses. She said, "I could either cry or laugh, so I decided to laugh and even got a laugh out of Dad."

So, my readers, if things look pretty bleak, why not trust God with your life. He is certainly directing the affairs of humans, no matter what may appear on the surface (that is another whole topic to write about next time).

The greatest choice we can make is to put our confidence and trust in God. As the Psalmist said, "When the Lord brought back his exiles to Jerusalem, it was like a dream! We were filled with laughter, and we sang for joy. And the other nations said, 'What amazing things the Lord has done for them.' Yes, the Lord has done amazing things for us! What joy!"

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In the next 25 years, Niagara is expected to grow, bringing a possible 168,000 new residents and 79,000 new jobs to the region.

Niagara Region is making sure we're prepared for this growth through four projects that will help us plan where and how that growth will occur, and how it will be accommodated.



HOW WE GROW: MUNICIPAL COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW

The Municipal Comprehensive Review will look at the land we have available across Niagara, and will ensure we have enough to sustain our expected growth to the year 2041. It will also examine how that land is distributed throughout Niagara.



HOW WE GROW: DEVELOPMENT CHARGES BY-LAW

The new Development Charges Background Study and By-law will align the infrastructure for our expected growth and how we will pay for it. It will connect with and reflect how we plan to grow, flow and go.



HOW WE FLOW:

The Water and Wastewater Master Servicing Plan will ensure Niagara has the infrastructure to provide critical water and wastewater services to our growing region in a sustainable and financially responsible way. This PIC will be presenting alternative design concepts.



HOW WE GO:

The Transportation Master Plan will look at how we currently travel in and around Niagara and how we can improve our transportation systems, including options for walking, cycling and public transit, to better serve Niagara's future needs.

Get involved:

Residents are invited to attend a Public Information Centre in their community to learn how each of these projects contribute to Niagara's overall growth plan for the next 25 years, and how you can have your voice heard.

Nov. 30, 2016

City of Niagara Falls
Gale Centre, 5152 Thorold Stone Rd.,
4-8 p.m.

Dec. 6, 2016

City of Thorold
Niagara Region Headquarters
(Atrium), 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way
4-8 p.m.

Dec. 7, 2016

Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
Community Centre, 14 Anderson Lane,
4-8 p.m.

Dec. 8, 2016

Town of Lincoln
Fleming Centre, 5020 Serena Dr.,
4-8 p.m.

There is an opportunity at any time during this process for interested persons to bring comments and concerns to the attention of the project managers, and to review outstanding issues. If you have any questions or comments or wish to be added to the study mailing list, please contact us at niagararegion.ca/2041.

The Transportation and Water and Wastewater studies follow the Master Plan process as outlined in Section A.2.7 of the Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Oct 2000, as amended in 2000, 2011 and 2015). The Master Plan will be filed under Approach #2 of the MEA Class EA Approach for Master Planning. The Master Servicing Plan will satisfy the planning requirements for Schedule A, A+ and select Schedule B projects and provide the basis for future investigations of identified Schedule B and C projects.

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to access the project documents, contact the Accessibility Advisory Coordinator at 905-980-6000 ext. 3252 or 1-800-263-7215 or accessibility@niagararegion.ca to make the appropriate arrangements.

LOCAL NEWS

Port Colborne student headed to legislature

LAURA BARTON
Postmedia Network

Grade 8 student Fallon Gervais is like other 13-year-olds in that she enjoys spending time with her friends and hanging out.

Something that maybe makes this St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School student a little different is her enjoyment of law and politics.

"I don't know why, that's just kind of what I like. I find it interesting," Gervais said, noting that her dream is to one day go into either field.

Monday that interest took her to Queen's Park for the Legislative Page Program. The program takes Grade 7 and 8 students and has them participate in the provincial legislature as pages.

Gervais had orientation at the beginning of November so she'd know what is expected of her while she's in Toronto.

She already seems to have it down

pat.

"There's a lot of stuff that I have to memorize," she said. "I have to memorize all the MPs in the house, and how to get to certain rooms I'll be travelling to."

As a page, she'll be responsible for bringing papers to the appropriate people and also knowing where those people sit. She has a seating chart to study and also has flash cards so she can familiarize herself with who's who and what their titles are.

If she happens to forget something or can't find someone, all is not lost, though.

"If I'm having trouble, they're very OK with me asking for clarification," she said of the ushers and other personnel.

"They're very kid-friendly. They're like, 'You can ask for help. We're not going to be angry at you if you ask for help.'"

See LEGISLATURE on A17



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IN BRIEF

Welland mobile home fire under investigation

A fire at 335 Biggar Rd. in Welland Sunday morning has caused about \$20,000 in damages.

Fire and emergency services were called to the scene at about 10:30 a.m. Two men were inside the home when the fire started, but exited without injuries.

Welland Fire and Emergency Services deputy chief Adam Ekhart said the fire caused damage to half of mobile home. He said there was a wood burning appliance inside the home, but the fire is under investigation and the cause is not known yet.

About 35 firefighters worked to extinguish the fire. Niagara Falls Fire Department also helped with the tanker truck of water because the location doesn't have fire hydrants.

Ekhart said a dog that lives at the home re-entered the building while firefighters were working on the scene. He said the dog followed one of the firefighting crews into the building and suffered from smoke inhalation.

"We called the SPCA to help him out ... he had some fur that was burned, but he received no injuries," Ekhart said.

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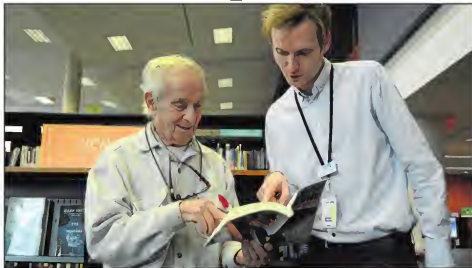
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Historic pilot comes to life



Welland author of the non-fiction book *Pilot of Fortune* Ted Beaudoin donates a copy to the Welland Public Library. Beaudoin, left, speaks to Connor Echlin, reference and information services co-ordinator, about the book.

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

The story of Canadian Second World War pilot Sheldon Luck comes to life in Welland author Ted Beaudoin's new book *Pilot of Fortune*.

He celebrates Canada's rich history during the war by writing about Luck's adventurous life, from working with Winston Churchill to life as a pilot in Europe.

Beaudoin first met the pilot when he was working at a journalist in Prince George B.C. He said Luck was a firefighter at the time and was a master of forest fires.

Beaudoin said Luck had pioneered a fire fighting technique called slashpot.

"You go up against a mountain side and you release your load of water from the aircraft, but it is a dangerous operation because the wing which is down tends to stall and you could crash," Beaudoin said.

Beaudoin said he has always been interested in aviation and wished he could have been a pilot, but due to poor vision he wasn't able.

When he met Luck, it sparked an interest for him to write about Luck's life as a pilot.

See **PILOT** on A13

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Remembering the sacrifices

MICHELLE ALLENBERG and LAURA BARTON
Postmedia Network

Pelham holds Remembrance Day celebrations at the town's three cenotaphs the Sunday before Remembrance Day, but each year the main celebration is held at the Royal Canadian Legion branch on the day itself.

Rick Hatt, the service officer at Branch 613 on Regional Road 20, said more than 100 people attended last Friday afternoon's ceremony at the Legion to show their respect to the people who made the ultimate sacrifice.

"We normally get about 100, but we may get more than that. We have some chairs for the vets as they get a little older, they may march, but they have to sit down and, hopefully, it's warm enough for them," Hatt said.

Branch 613 plays a large role in the lives of veterans in the community. Hatt said Legion members offer support in the form of medical assistance, including supplying hearing aids or other types of support.

For Hatt, having branches in communities throughout Canada allows not only support, but also a place of reflection.

"We consider ourselves the keepers of remembrance. We have the poppy drive each year and that money goes directly to our veterans," Hatt said.



LAURA BARTON/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

The Royal Canadian Air Cadets, 79 Lynton Davies Squadron stand as sentries around the cenotaph at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park in Port Colborne for Remembrance Day 2016.

The Fonthill branch has a presence in schools throughout the region, including St. Theresa's in Port Colborne. Hatt said there are a handful of veterans who speak to students about their experience in war.

One of the Legion members who speaks to students is Jim Summersides, a Second World War veteran.

See SACRIFICE on A25



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Pilot of fortune celebrates Luck's life

PILOT from A9

"When I was younger I couldn't fly because of my glasses, today you can of course. So, I thought to heck with you guys, I'll learn all I can about aviation ... I've been an aviation writer since 19."

"Well I started writing at my first newspaper, the Barrie Examiner, in 1962 and I've been writing ever since. It wasn't long before that I became a disaster writer," Beaudoin said.

Through his research Beaudoin came to learn that Luck was British Prime Minister Winston Churchill's personal mailman.

"Wherever Churchill went he was there with his airplane and Churchill's mail. He also earned a King's commendation for his work in doing this, and was inducted into Canada's aviation hall of fame," Beaudoin said.

During the war Luck flew for the Royal Air Force Ferry Command. The command's purpose was to deliver aircraft from manufacturers to non-operational areas. It also transported aircraft to front-line operational units.

Beaudoin said Ferry Command influenced our current international air travel. During the time flying across the North Atlantic was considered "suicidal," but the pilots in Ferry Command took on the challenge.

"He was an incredible pilot," Beaudoin said.

Pilot of Fortune is the sequel to Beaudoin's first biography Walking On Air where he begins the story of Luck's life as a pilot. In the first book Beaudoin writes about Luck's first solo flight on Christmas Eve in 1930.

Beaudoin donated a copy of his book to the Welland Public Library last Wednesday. The book is also available for purchase on amazon.com.

Luck died at the age of 95 in 2004, but for Beaudoin Luck's legacy lives on.

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LOCAL NEWS

'There's a lot of stuff that I have to memorize'

LEGISLATURE from A7

Gervais said she has a uniform she'll be wearing while she works four days a week.

Friday is a more relaxed day during which she and the other student pages will have the chance to go on field trips or even meet some of the MPPs.

Having lunch with her local MPP, Niagara Centre's Cindy Forster, is something she may get to do.

Meeting Premier Kathleen Wynne is also another option on the table, which she said

the program tries to facilitate so students can ask some one-on-one questions.

One thing Gervais is curious to know is how Wynne handles the pressure of being asked an on-the-spot question.

"I do OK under pressure," she said of herself. "But right on the spot, that would be kind of difficult for me."

While in Toronto she'll be staying with family and said she's excited to share the experience with them. She said everyone is happy for her and supportive.

St. Patrick principal Kim Kuchar said while away from classes, Gervais will keep up with her math and language studies. The program doesn't recommend much more than that so the student can focus on the job.

She said that as a student council leader Gervais shows a lot of leadership skills and is committed to her fellow students and their voice.

Gervais is scheduled to return Thursday, Dec. 8.

lauratn@postmedia.com



LAURA BARTON / POST-MEDIA NETWORK

Fallon Gervais, a Grade 8 student at St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School in Port Colborne, is set to head off to Queen's Park to take part in the Legislative Page Program for students.



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REVIEW

The Standard

THE TRIBUNE

No clear path for transit in Niagara yet

TRANSIT from A2

"I have my views on how this is going to work. It's going to work fantastically for the people in the core area and along the north once GO is going. It's not going to do an awful lot for the people in south Niagara, along the Lake Erie shoreline."

St. Catharines Coun. Brian Heit stressed that the system is being built for all Niagara residents, not only students. Just as gas stations and convenience stores are not found on every corner, the transit system cannot cover every inch of the community to offer the "ultimate Cadillac service," he said. "We can't afford it."

He said councillors must think about what taxpayers can afford and not just "about those anomalies in communities."

"Even in St. Catharines there are people who have to walk 15 minutes to get to a bus."

Welland Mayor Frank Campion said the system "has to start somewhere" and that launching point is not likely going to be the ideal.

Instead, the system will continue to evolve over time to meet market needs and the demands of the community, he

said.

The proposal for a consolidated model was recently presented to St. Catharines, Welland and Niagara Falls councils.

Additional information was requested from each on the proposed governance model, how it will be structured and how it will impact each municipality, Kar said, adding details of the cost were also sought.

That information is expected to be available early in the new year, he said.

Public consultation will begin this week and run until the end of November.

Four public meetings will be held at various Niagara locations. The meetings began yesterday at St. Catharines Kiwanis Aquatics Centre.

Details on the remaining consultation meetings are available at www.niagaratransit.ca/transit.

Residents can also complete a survey on the website.



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Extravagonzo: Meet the new STRUTT

JOHN LAW

Postmedia Network

STRUTT may be gone, but its spirit lives on in a ramblunctious new vaudevilian show coming to the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre next weekend.

Once again organized by STRUTT founders Niagara Artists Centre, the Voix de Ville Extravagonzo promises the same unpredictable format with some new wrinkles, says producer Steve Remus.

"It's a fresh take on an established party," he says. "We're keeping all what was best about STRUTT, and we're trying to build on it to create an event that better suits this fantastic facility."

Like an old school variety show, the event will offer live music, theatre, performance art, comedy and set design that will turn Partridge Hall into an arts

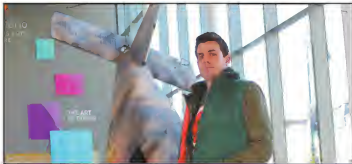
and culture buffet. Directed by Suitcase in Point artistic director Deanna Jones, it will feature projections and decor by Canadian artist Shary Boyle, music by Shadowy Men on a Shadowy Planet (with Dallas Good of The Sadies), hip hop dance troupe Bboyizm, and master of ceremonies Bruce McCulloch of Kids in the Hall.

It happens Nov. 18 at 7 p.m., and Nov. 19 at 7 and 9:30 p.m.

"Expect to be surprised," says Remus. "Imagine The Muppet Show for grown ups. And it's licensed!"

Dubbed 'The Evolution of STRUTT,' the new show also features after parties with Team Wolf Nov. 18 and The Sadies Nov. 19.

STRUTT was known as the 'wearable art show,' offering one of Niagara's most unique, energetic cultural events of the year. But it had to find its groove over



JOHN LAW / POSTMEDIA NETWORK

What was once STRUTT is now the Voix de Ville Extravagonzo. Director Steve Remus says the old Niagara favourite ('The Wearable Art Show') has a beguiling new identity.

the years, says Remus.

In the beginning, organizers used actual models to walk the runway. It started to blossom once people from the community took part, and Suitcase in

Point gave it some theatrical flair. Taking place at the W.S. Tyler factory building, its funky charm attracted fans from Toronto and Western New York.

With the factory unavailable

last year, Remus opted to shove the \$150,000 show instead of water it down.

"The decision was made by the circumstances - time, money. This place (PAC) wasn't

fully operating, and we weren't going to half step it and mess it up. Putting on a good show is the first order of business."

With PAC now a viable option, the Niagara Artists Centre reinvented the show from its fashion roots to something more appropriate for a concert hall.

Now, it's a matter of letting former STRUTT buffs know the show is back... sort of.

"It's a really competitive marketplace for entertainment dollars these days, and that also includes the dollars people have spent on outfitting their rec rooms with large screen TVs and stuff," says Remus. "All we're after are the people who want something different. It's only going to happen this one weekend, and you're either there or you're not."

"It'll be an indelible experience. There's not going to be anything like it."

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Task force addressing East Village concerns

LAURA BARTON
Postmedia Network

Port Colborne's East Village Neighbourhood Improvement Task Force is leaving a positive impression on the community.

For Dee Tilbrook, one of five members of the task force and also a resident of Port Colborne's East Village, it's a way for that part of the city to make issues known.

The year-old task force advises city councillors of ways the community could be improved and what concerns residents have. On Oct. 22 it hosted an open house for residents to meet members from organizations in the community.

"The overall feeling that I got from the residents and the other members of the task force and the other organizations that were there, it was

a really positive first step," Tilbrook said.

Ward 2 Coun. Angie Desmarais, also a member of the task force, agreed about the open house's overall success, stating it was "very well-attended" and that efforts are working.

Several local agencies and personnel attended the event, such as Port Cares, Bridges Community Health Centre, a Port Colborne bylaw officer and Niagara Regional Police. "Anyone who walked in the door would have someone to answer their issues, regardless of what they were," Desmarais said.

Tilbrook said about 50 residents attended the open house. Residents are starting to feel like they're being listened to. An anonymous suggestion box was filled to the brim.

"Everyone has stepped

up," she said.

"Everybody is listening. It's positive, positive, positive."

There was only one criminal-type complaint Desmarais heard about, which is a stark difference from what East Village used to be.

"If this had been a year ago, that's all we would have been doing," she said.

There is still criminal activity happening in East Village, however, which frustrates Tilbrook. She said many drug dealers still work in the area, seemingly without fear of repercussions.

"Why aren't they being shut down?" Tilbrook said.

NRP 6 District Staff Sgt. Chris Healey said police are



DESMARAIS

aware of issues in the area and have been working to address them. He said it's slow work because of the requirements outlined in the Criminal Code and the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act.

There are specifics that need to be met before police can move forward with a search warrant to pursue criminal charges, Healey said.

He didn't have an exact number, but he does know that some arrests have been made.

"The investigations are often not done overnight. They take time to come together," Healey said. "The residents can't hope to take some comfort in knowing that we are working on the situations as they present themselves and it's something that we will continue to work on."

Desmarais said one issue that didn't have any direct



The overall feeling that I got from the residents and the other members of the task force and the other organizations that were there, it was a really positive first step."

Dee Tilbrook

answers during the open house had to do with both domesticated and wild animal control.

Aggressive dogs, pest control and population control in general are a concern in East Village, and Desmarais brought it up to council for discussion during its Oct. 24 meeting. Council will be reaching out to Welland and District Humane Society to

discuss these issues.

As for the task force, Tilbrook said there are plans on following up during its monthly meetings and continuing with open house meetings as well.

Healey recommended residents with concerns report them to the street crime unit based out of Welland or to Crime Stoppers.

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'Caring extends beyond our border'

SACRIFICE from A11

"We want them to know, we want them to remember that these people who come here today or celebrate, is for freedom," Hatt said. "They were there, they fought war, so the kids are very appreciative of them having talked to them."

"Jimmy Summersides, he's 92 years old, he still goes and he stands up and is happy to accept talk to them about the war."

Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn laid a wreath at last Friday's ceremony on behalf of the municipality. He said an addition to this year's ceremony was a flyover.

"One of them was the Lancaster coming over from the war plane museum, so that was a treat as well to show their respects. To really almost shake up the stones that are here when they flew over

very very low," Augustyn said.

Port Colborne's ceremony also saw planes fly overhead as veterans, students and other guests took a moment to reflect at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park.

Bryan Ingram, who spoke on behalf of Niagara Centre MP Vance Badway, said Canadians owe a debt that can never be repaid and he wanted to acknowledge the men and women, including those from the First Nations, who have fought for Canada.

He said working for Badway has given him the opportunity to meet many veterans.

"The one thing I'm struck by is their belief in humanity," he said. "So today, and everyday, I would encourage us to find humanity in each other, the things that bring us together, so that we may live our very lives honouring those people

who have given theirs."

Port Colborne Mayor John Maloney said Canada is a nation that cares, which is why the nation pauses on Nov. 11 to pay its respects. He said that caring extends beyond our borders as our armed forces fight for peace for all.

Bob Saracino, vice-president of the Royal Canadian Legion branch 56 in Port Colborne, which hosted the ceremony, expressed how much of an honour and a privilege he felt it was to live in a country where veterans fought and died for.

"Let us pause and reflect at the cost of this poppy, because it cost us so many millions of human lives and sacrifice to preserve our democracy so that we have this freedom that we all enjoy today."

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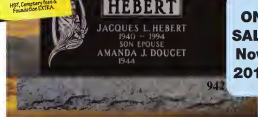
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